

EXCERPTS from HISTORY OF SUSQUEHANNA COMPANY

"The charters granted by English sovereigns to Connecticut and Pennsylvania and from which the early troubles arose, were based on assumed right of possession in virtue of discovery of its shores by Sebastian Cabot, 1497.

"In 1606, James I of England divided portion of North America between thirty-fourth and forty-fifth degrees into two nearly equal districts - southern to Company of London merchants and northern to Plymouth Colony. From 38d degrees to 41 degrees the same was granted to both; but, wherever the one made a settlement, the other might not settle within a hundred miles.

"November 1620, James I incorporated the Grand Council of Plymouth for planting and governing New England in America and granting all that tract of North America between forty and forty-eight degrees in its whole extent 'From sea to sea', excepting only such land as might already be in possession of another Christian prince.

"In 1631, a deed from Earl of Warwick conveyed to Lord Say and Seal, Lord Brook, and others, that part of New England afterwards purchased from them by the colony of Connecticut. In 1662, Charles II renewed and confirmed the charter to Connecticut distinctly recognizing it as a part and parcel of the old Plymouth grant." (Hist. of Susquehanna Co. by Chapman p2)

"In 1664, the Dutch, who had settled on the Hudson more than fifty years previous, and who claimed the land from Connecticut River to the Delaware were conquered by England and territory given to Duke of York, the King's brother.

"The charter to Connecticut had included exception in favor of the Dutch, their land never having been vested in the Crown previous to this conquest and in 1650, articles of agreement respecting the eastern line of their possessions had been made between them and Connecticut. But, because this line, as agreed upon in 1664, was pronounced 'the western bounds of the colony of Connecticut' as it was the eastern of the Duke's patent, the plea was afterwards made by Pennsylvania that Connecticut had relinquished all Claims to lands west of Delaware tho these were distinctly included within the charter of 1662.

"Now, there were no opposite or adverse claims in 1662, as to the western land. No foreign nation had any pretensions to it. The Duke did not and could not claim it, the Delaware being expressly made his western limit. The King gave no intimation that he was dissatisfied with his own grant of it to 'Connecticut.' (Hist. of Susque. Co. by Chapman p 3; and Mener'S Hist. of Wyoming)

"The commissioners, who were appointed to make the dividing line between the Duke and Connecticut, had nothing to do or to determine about lands west of this patent.

"Three requisites were demanded to render title to lands perfect: 1. Grant or charter from King; 2. Purchase of soil from Indians; 3. Possession." (H. of S.C. p4)